

A

A

A

A

A

RIVER





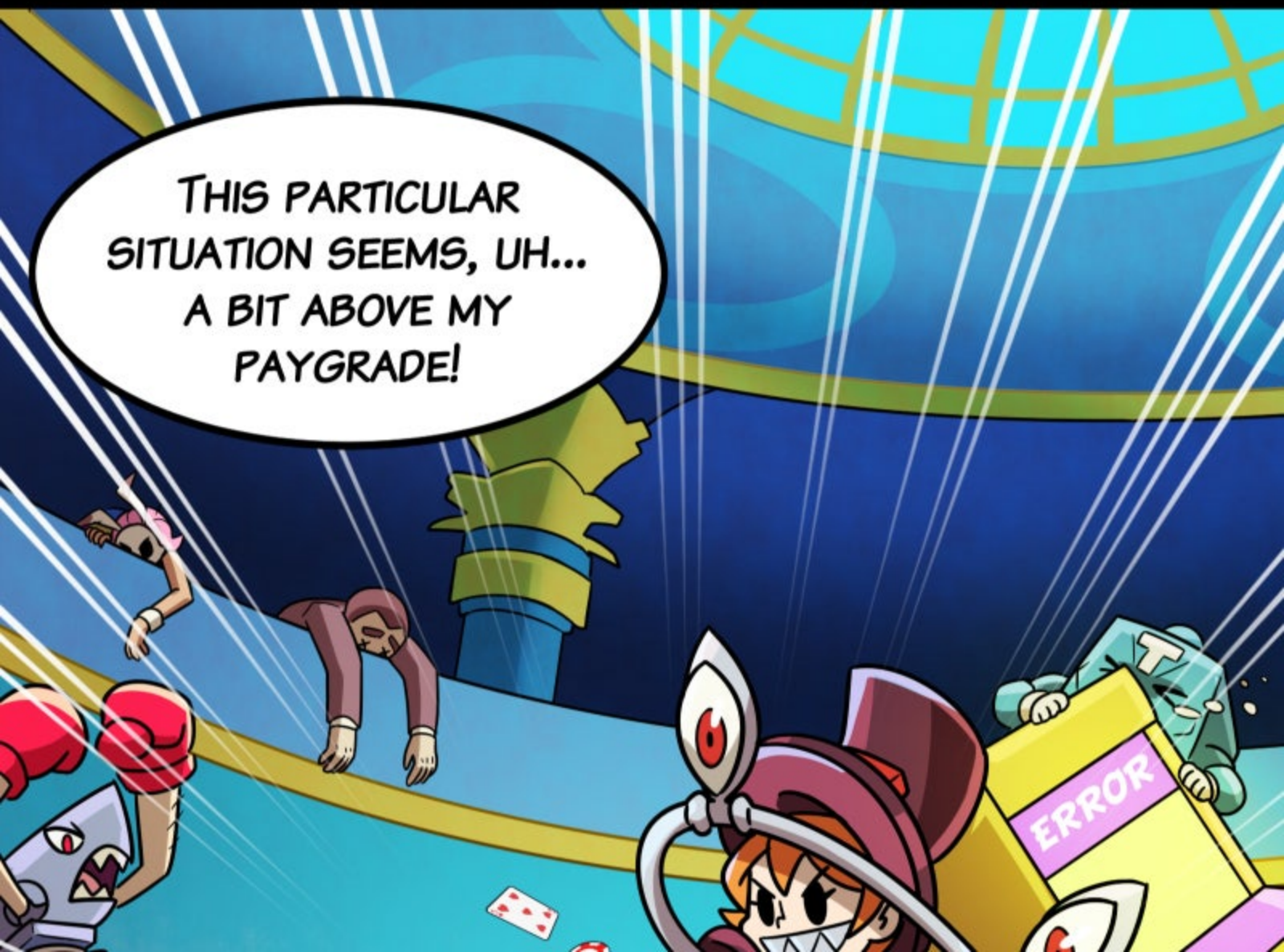
BOOM

I KNOW I'M NOT
SUPPOSED TO USE THIS
NUMBER UNLESS IT'S AN
EMERGENCY, AND THAT IT'S
ALSO MY JOB TO HANDLE
EMERGENCIES, BUT...

CRASH



THIS PARTICULAR
SITUATION SEEMS, UH...
A BIT ABOVE MY
PAYGRADE!

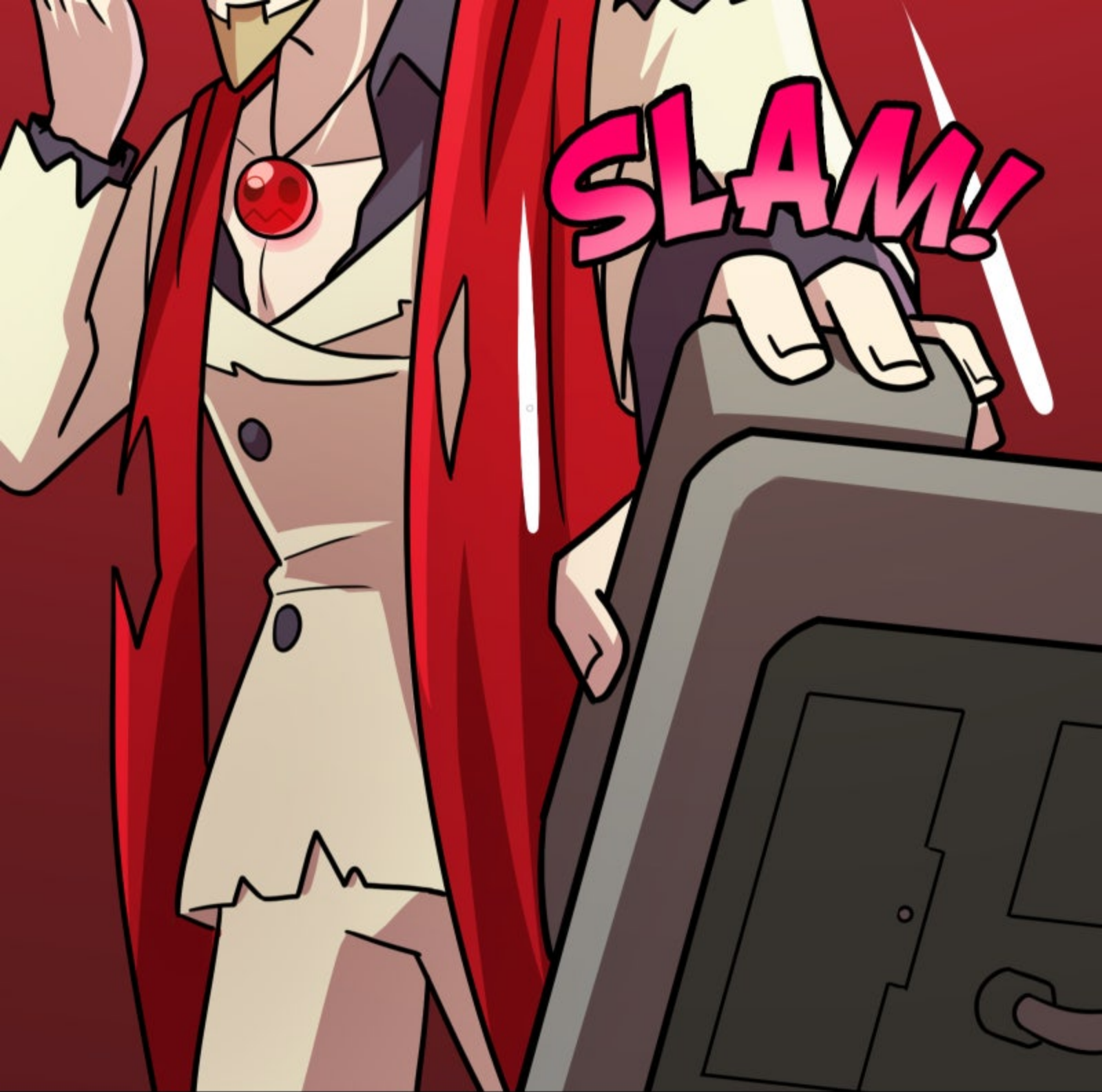




A green, bulldog-like character with a serious expression is shown from the chest up. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark bowler hat. He is holding a purple mobile phone to his ear with his left hand and has his right hand near his mouth. The background is a blurred office setting with a bookshelf and a desk. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of the character.

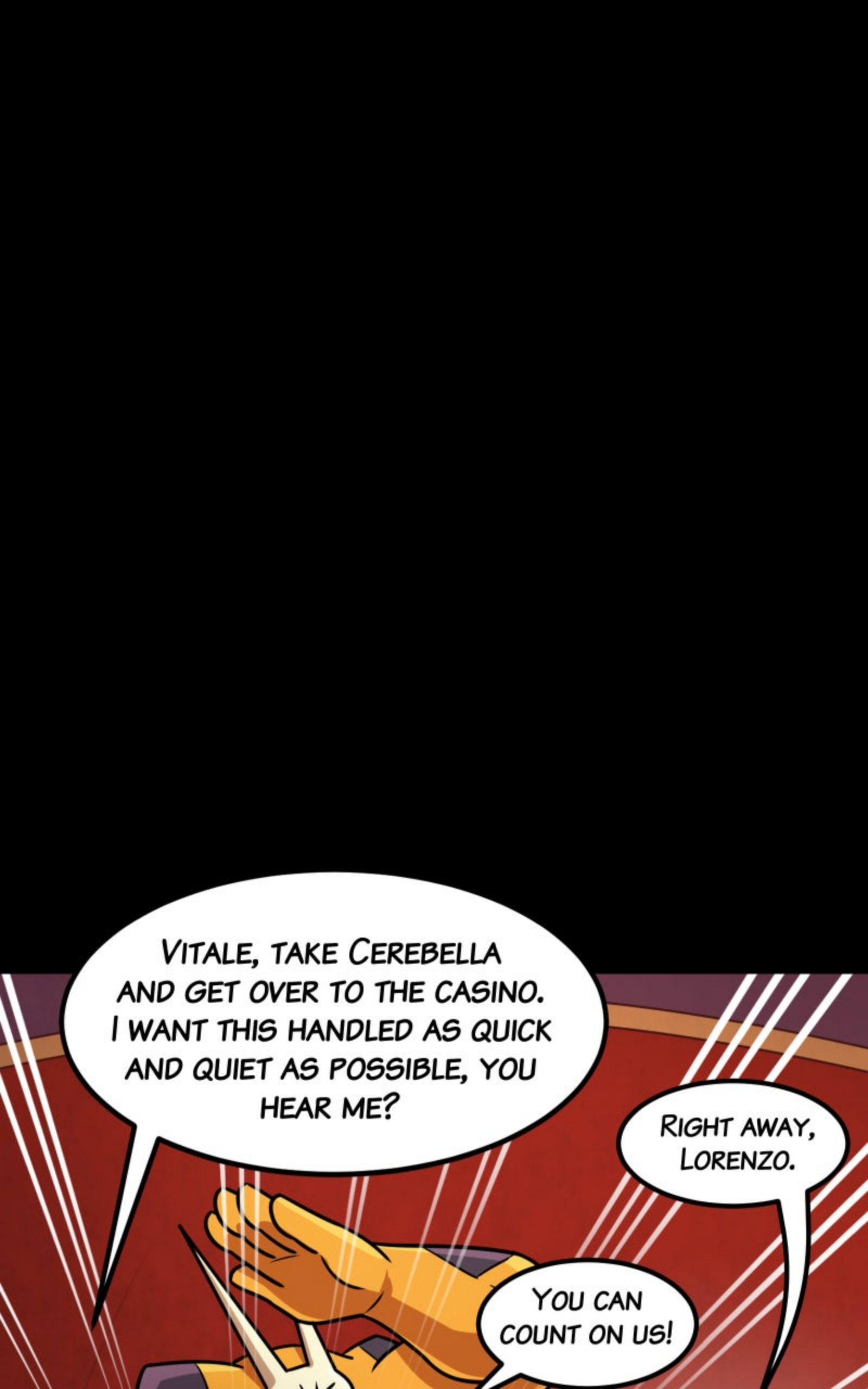
YOU'D BETTER
SEND SOMEBODY OUT
HERE RIGHT AWAY, 'CUZ
BY THE TIME THEY'RE
DONE THERE WON'T BE
A CASINO LEFT!







THAT WOMAN IS
LITERALLY A LOOSE
CANNON.



VITALE, TAKE CEREBELLA
AND GET OVER TO THE CASINO.
I WANT THIS HANDLED AS QUICK
AND QUIET AS POSSIBLE, YOU
HEAR ME?

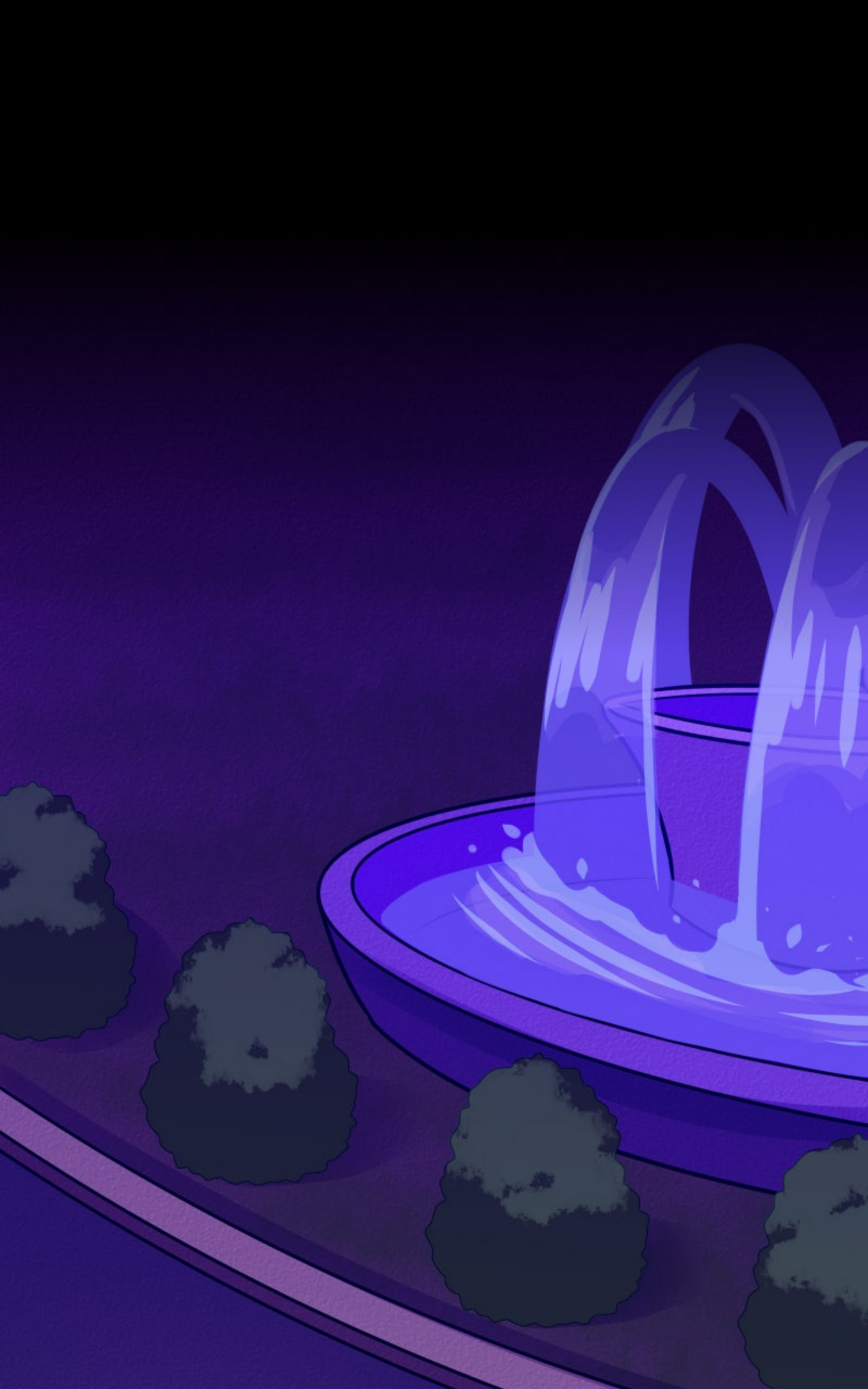
RIGHT AWAY,
LORENZO.

YOU CAN
COUNT ON US!

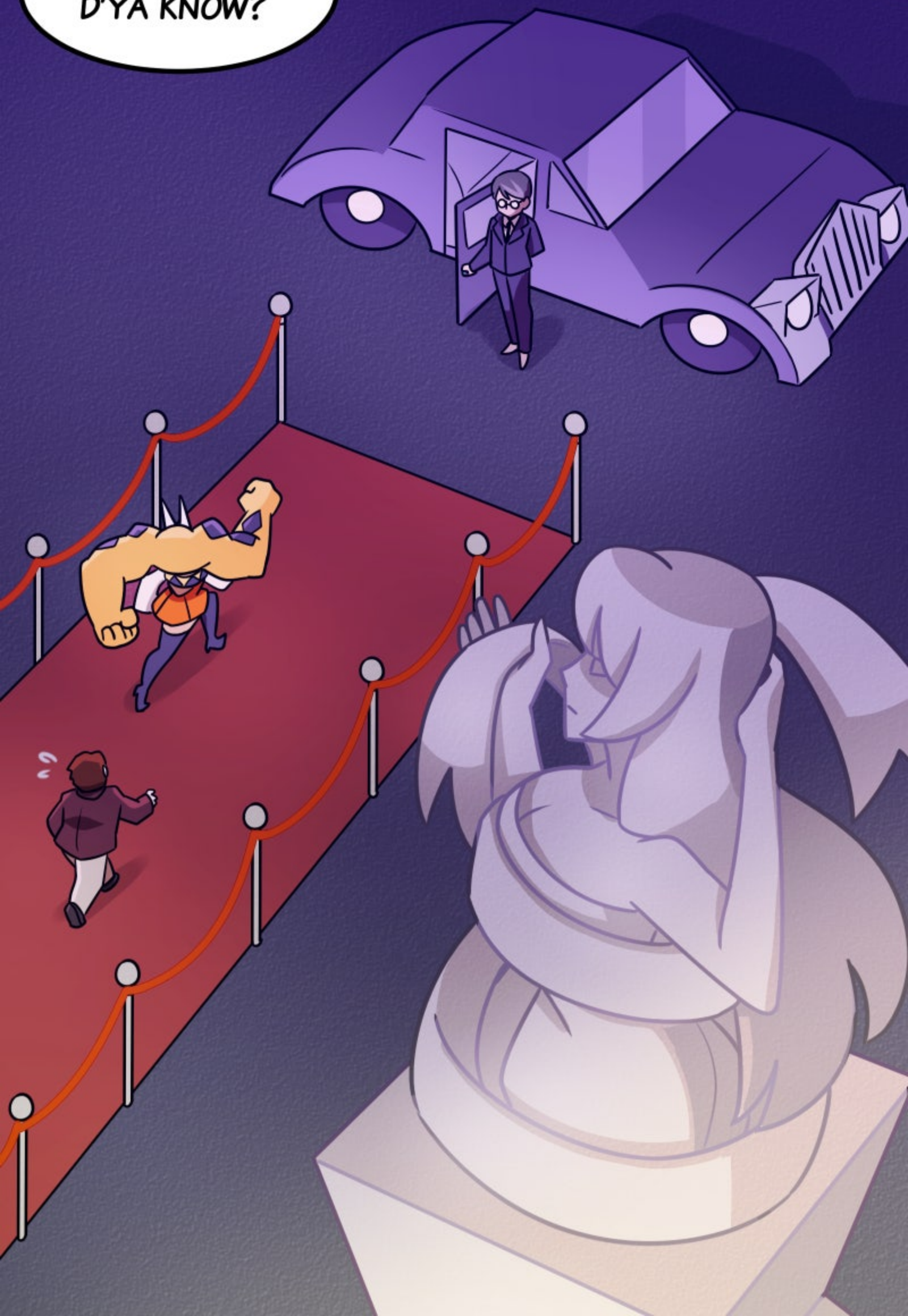


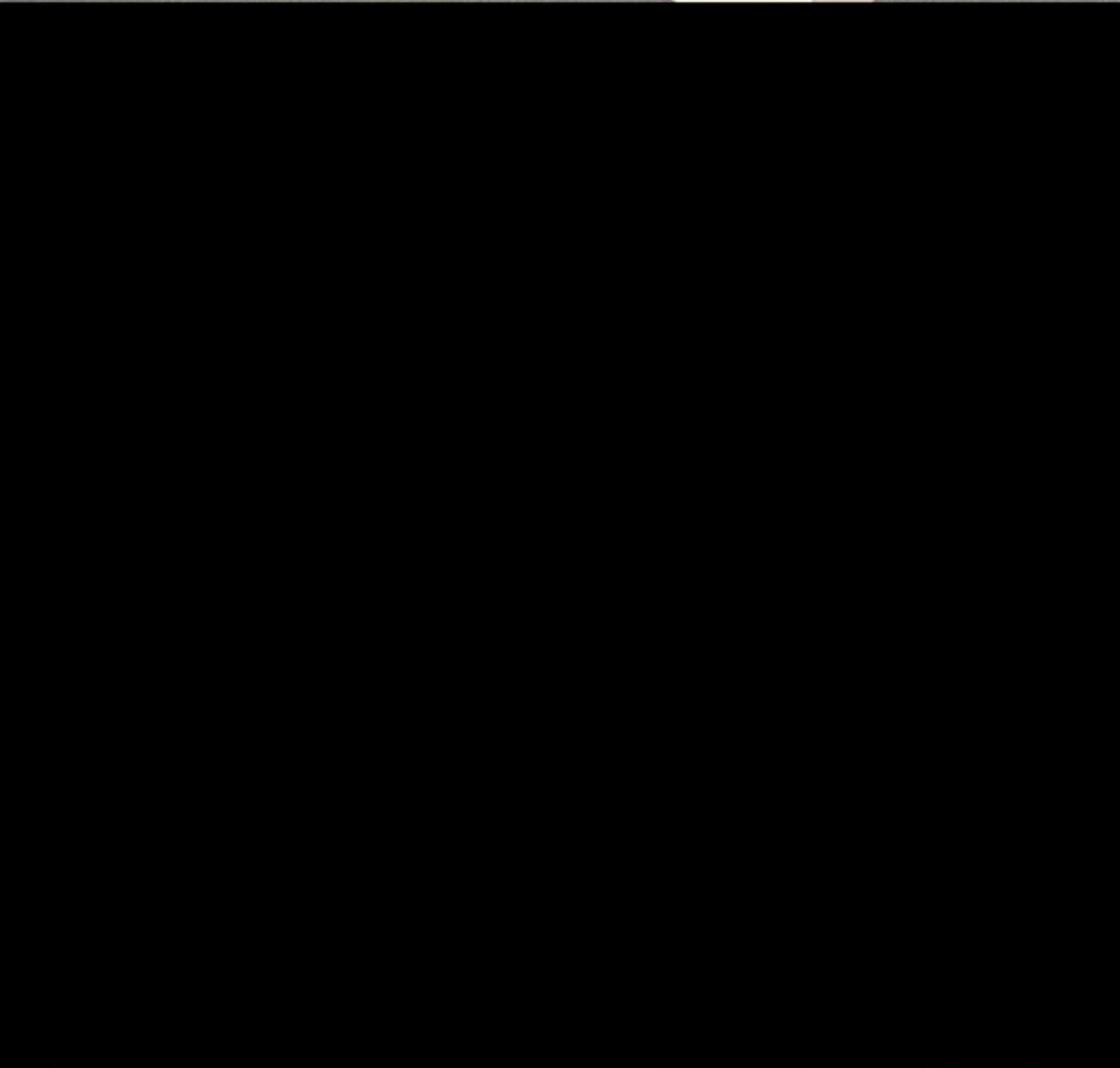
TELL THAT TO THE
DAINTY PRINCESS WHO
MOPPED THE FLOOR
WITH YOU.





WELL WHAT
D'YA KNOW?





THOSE TWO
ARE HEADING
SOMEWHERE IN AN
AWFUL HURRY.



WHAT A
SHAME. I WAS
HOPING TO LIFT
VICE VERSA.

YOU'D LOOK
GOOD IN A HAT.



THAT'S ONE DOWN...
JUST A ROBOT IN A
STARCHED SHIRT LEFT
TO DEAL WITH.

THIS MAY BE
EVEN EASIER THAN
I THOUGHT.







ARE YOU
READY?





HEY!



ARE YOU?





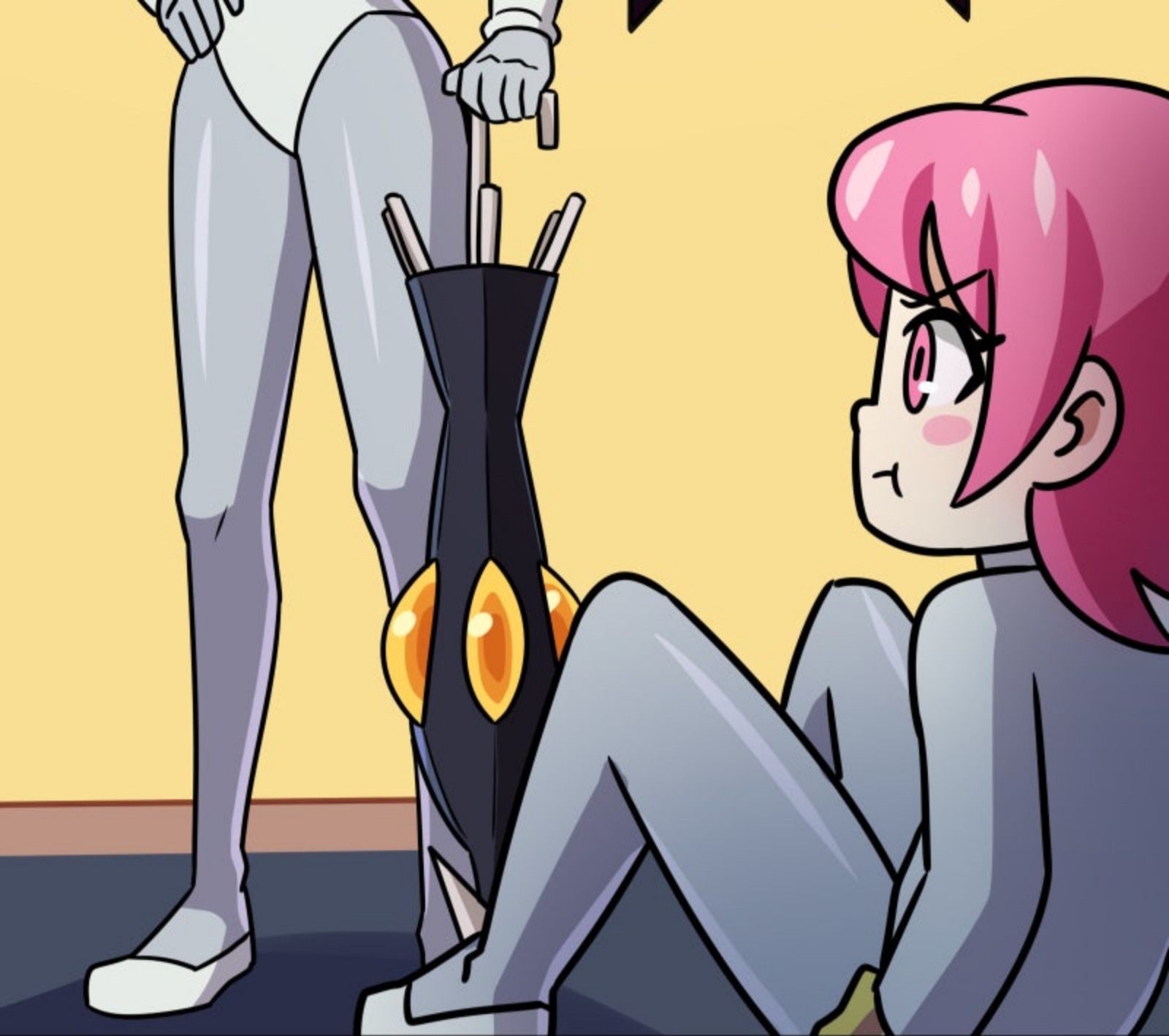
HM
HM



AAH!

SMACK

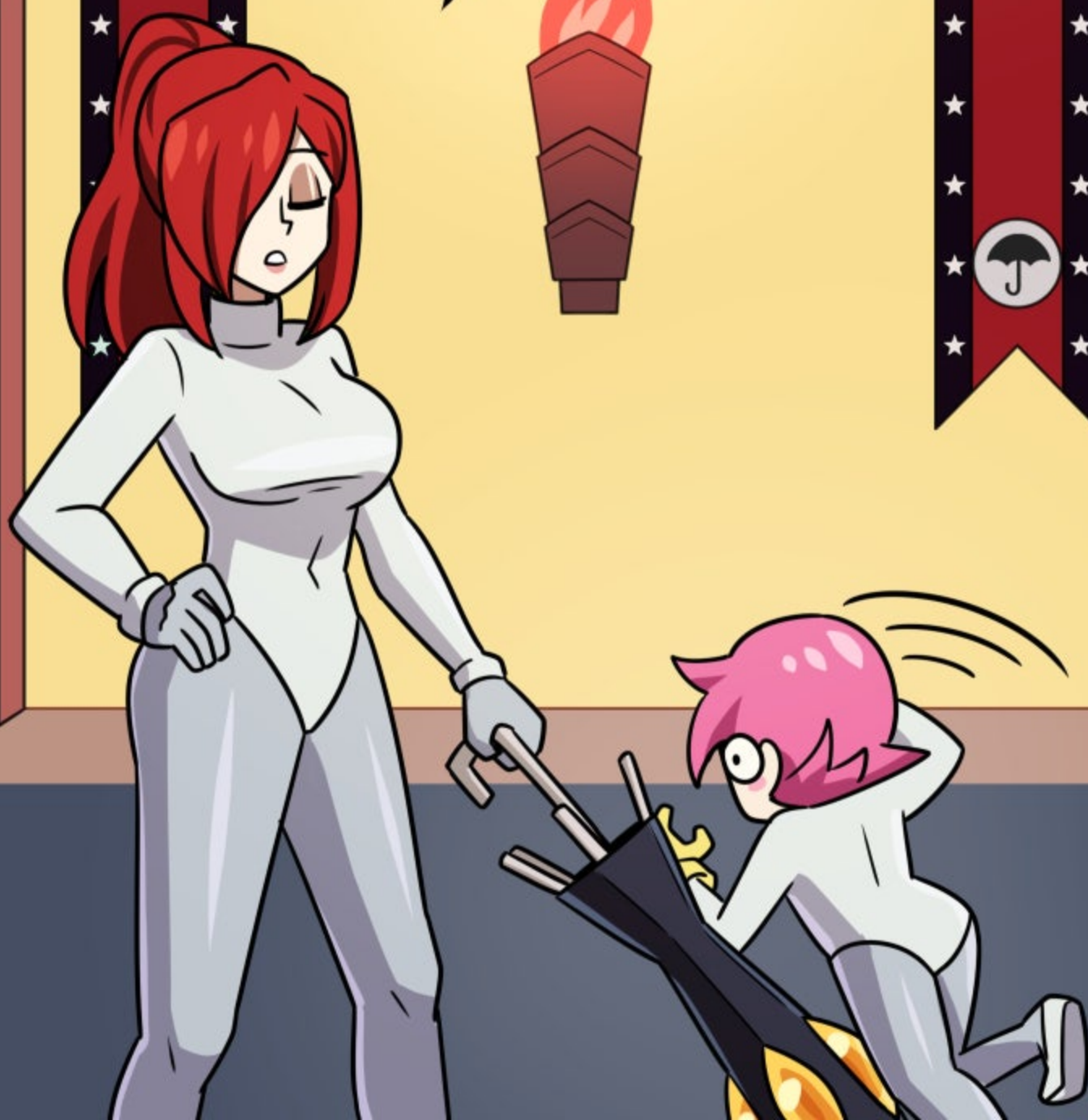




**WE'LL
SEE ABOUT
THAT!**



ALL THE COMMITMENT
IN THE WORLD DOESN'T
MEAN MUCH IF YOU CAN'T
REACH YOUR TARGET.







ESPECIALLY WHEN
SAID TARGET CAN USE
THAT COMMITMENT
AGAINST YOU.





YOU CHEATED!



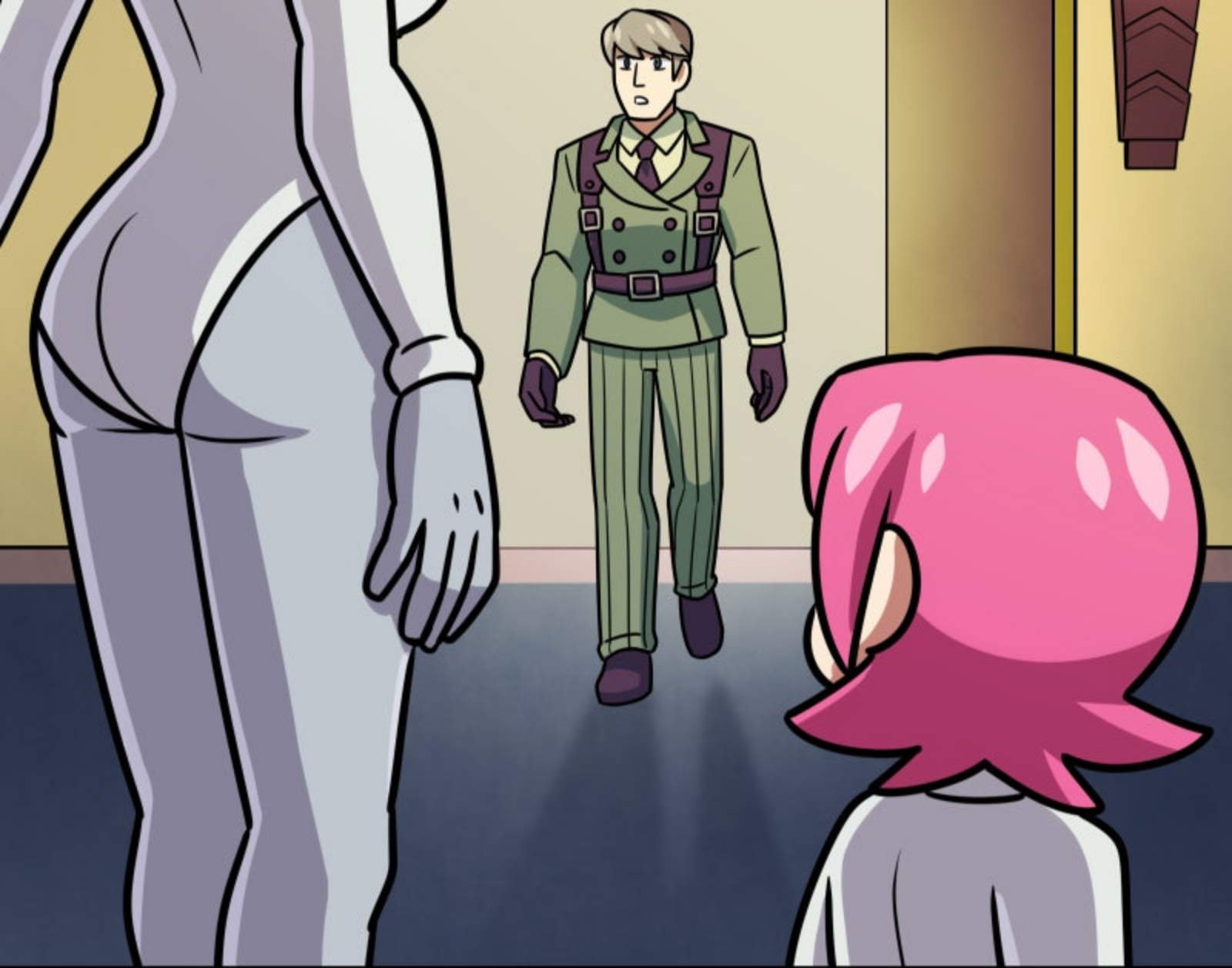
GOADED ME
INTO BLINDLY
ATTACKING!

I DID NO SUCH
THING! YOU'RE
JUST--

AHEM.



APOLOGIES FOR
THE INTRUSION, YOUR
HIGHNESSES, BUT I
HAVE URGENT NEWS.



WHAT IS IT,
ADAM?



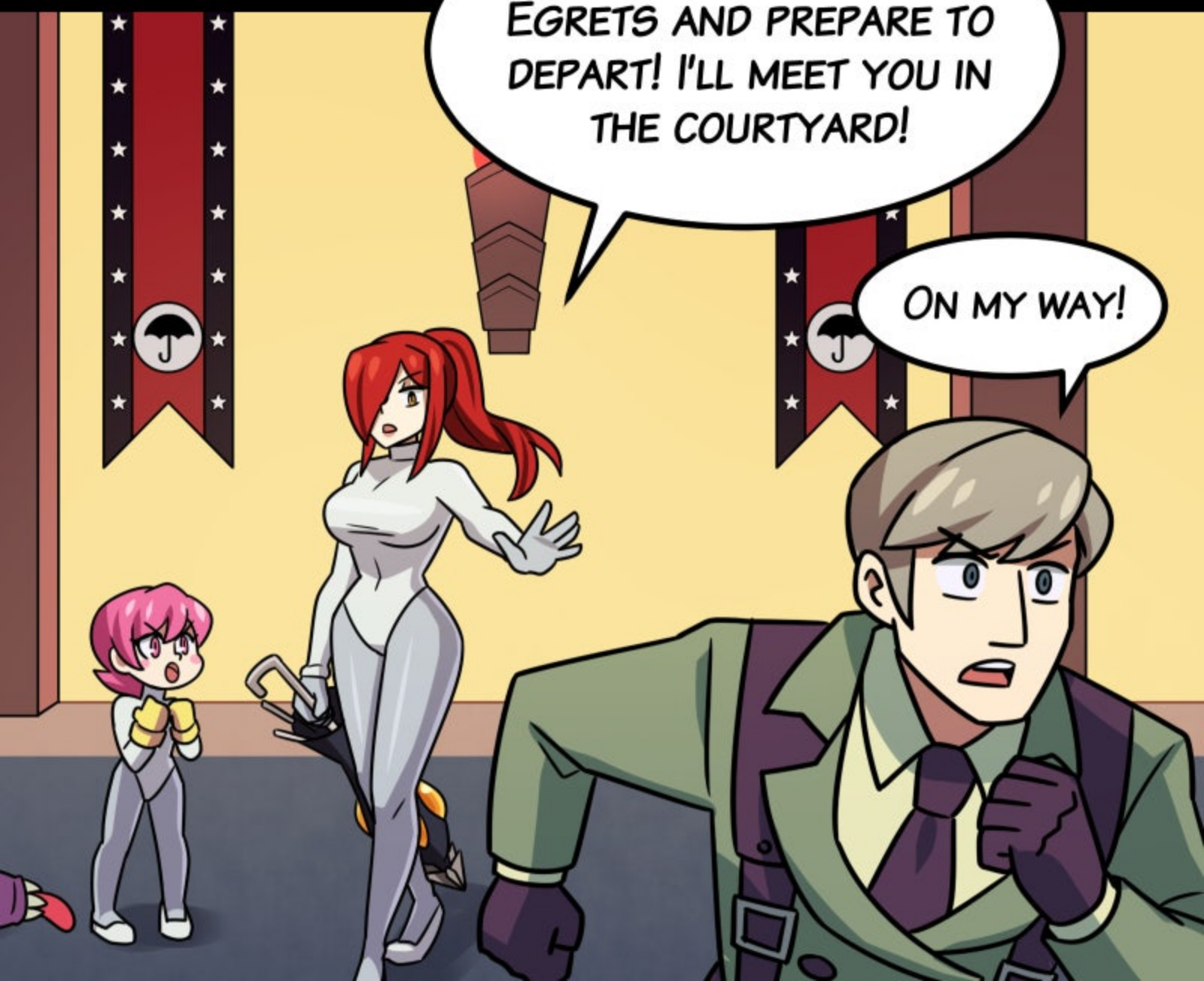
A SIGNIFICANT
DISTURBANCE AT THE RIVER
KING CASINO. MY CONTACT IN
THE NMPD IS CERTAIN THE
PERPETRATOR IS THE SAME ONE
WE ENCOUNTERED EARLIER
TONIGHT.





GATHER THE
EGRETS AND PREPARE TO
DEPART! I'LL MEET YOU IN
THE COURTYARD!

ON MY WAY!





I'M COMING
WITH YOU!

THAT IS NOT
HAPPENING.

AND WHY NOT?
I CAN HANDLE IT! I WAS
ABLE TO DEAL WITH WHAT
HAPPENED TO FATHER,
WASN'T I?

AND I'M A FAR
BETTER FIGHTER
THAN ANY OF YOUR
SOLDIERS.

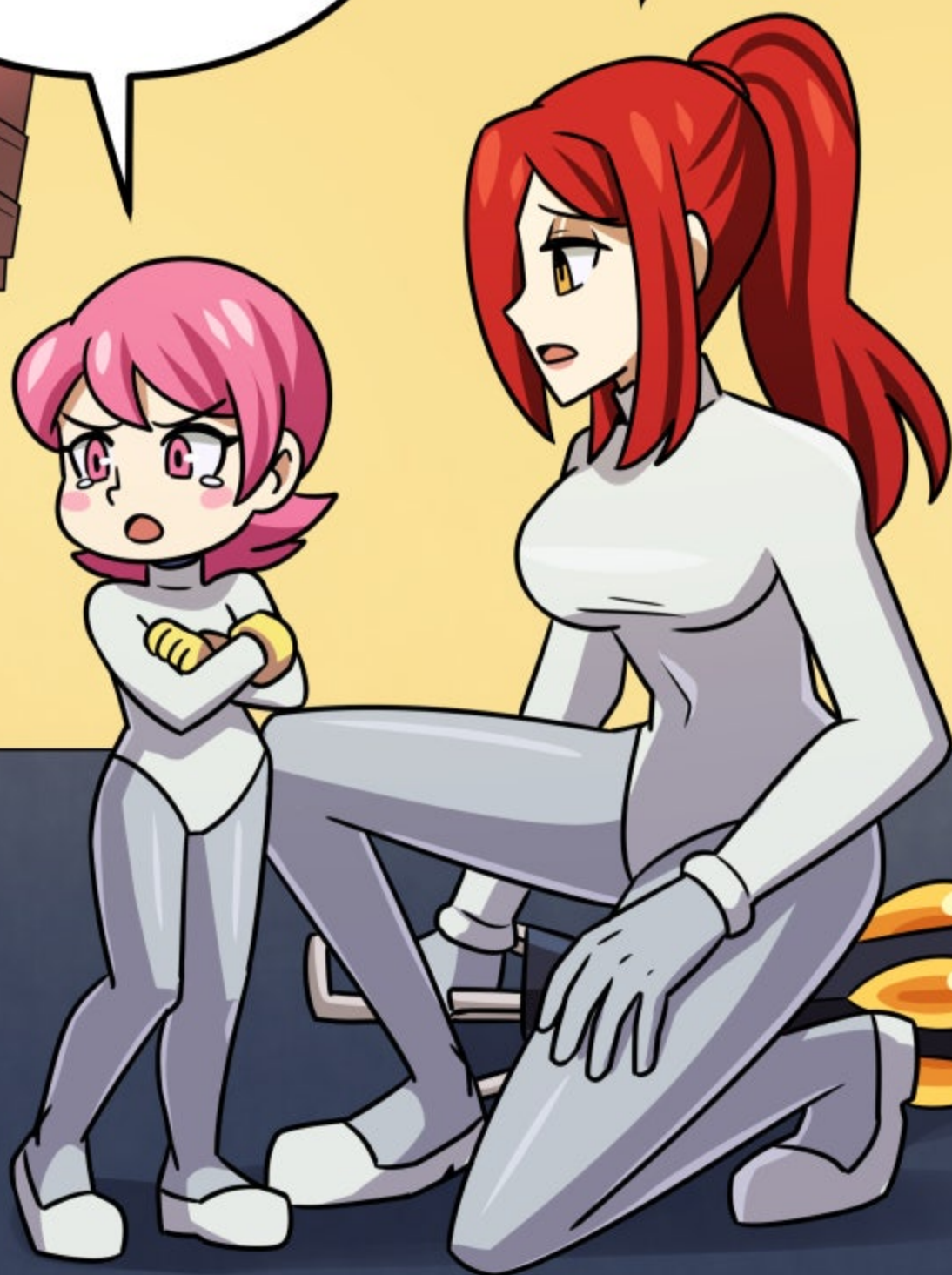




NO, YOU'RE REALLY NOT.
BESIDES, I MADE A PROMISE TO
MOTHER BEFORE SHE PASSED
THAT I'D ALWAYS LOOK OUT FOR
YOU. I'M NOT PREPARED TO

YOU. I'M NOT PREPARED TO
BREAK THAT VOW.

YOU ALWAYS
USE MOTHER WHEN
YOU'RE TRYING TO
GET YOUR WAY!



GOOD NIGHT,
SISTER! DON'T WAIT
UP!

AND HAVE
FATHER READ YOU
THAT STORY!

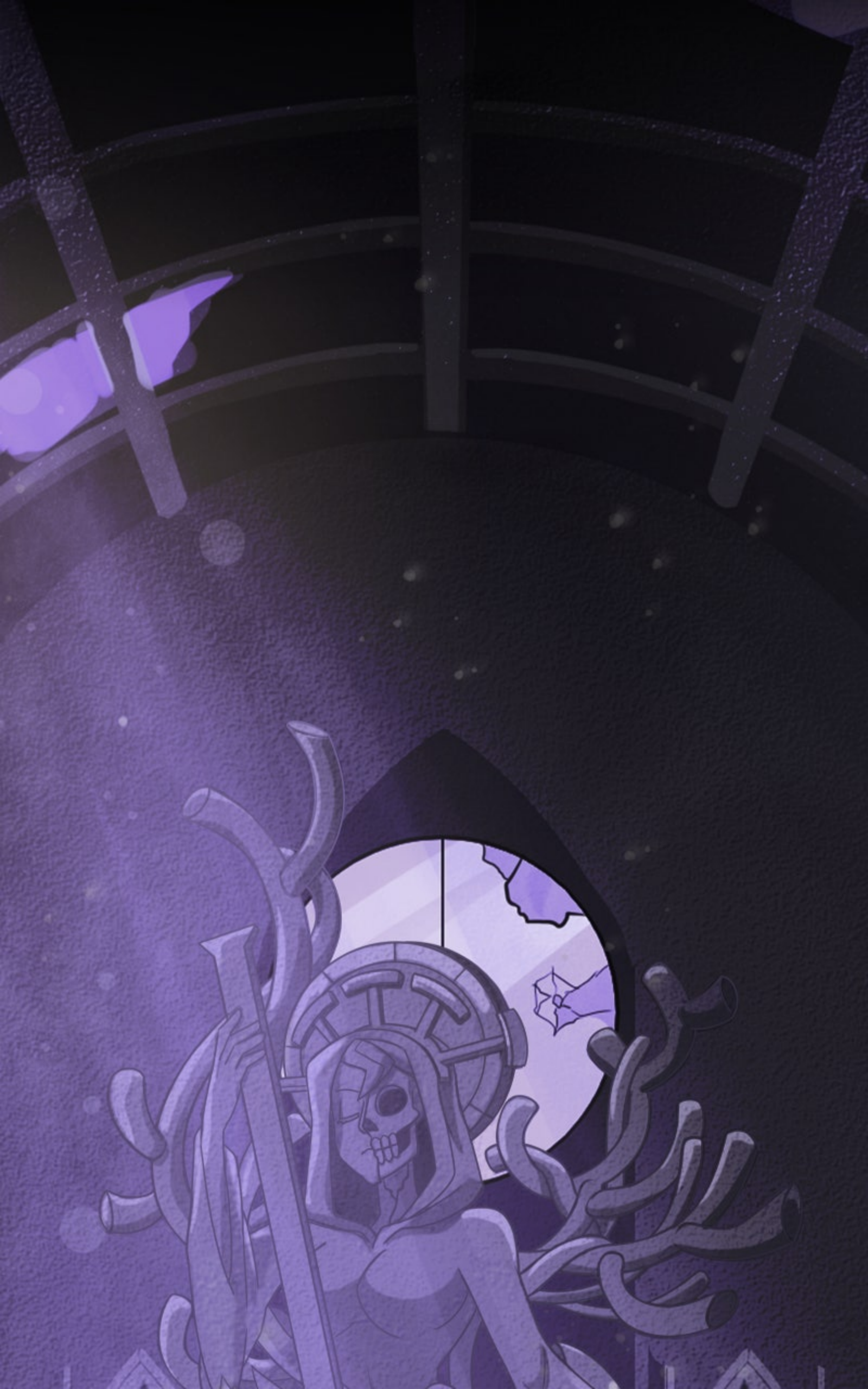














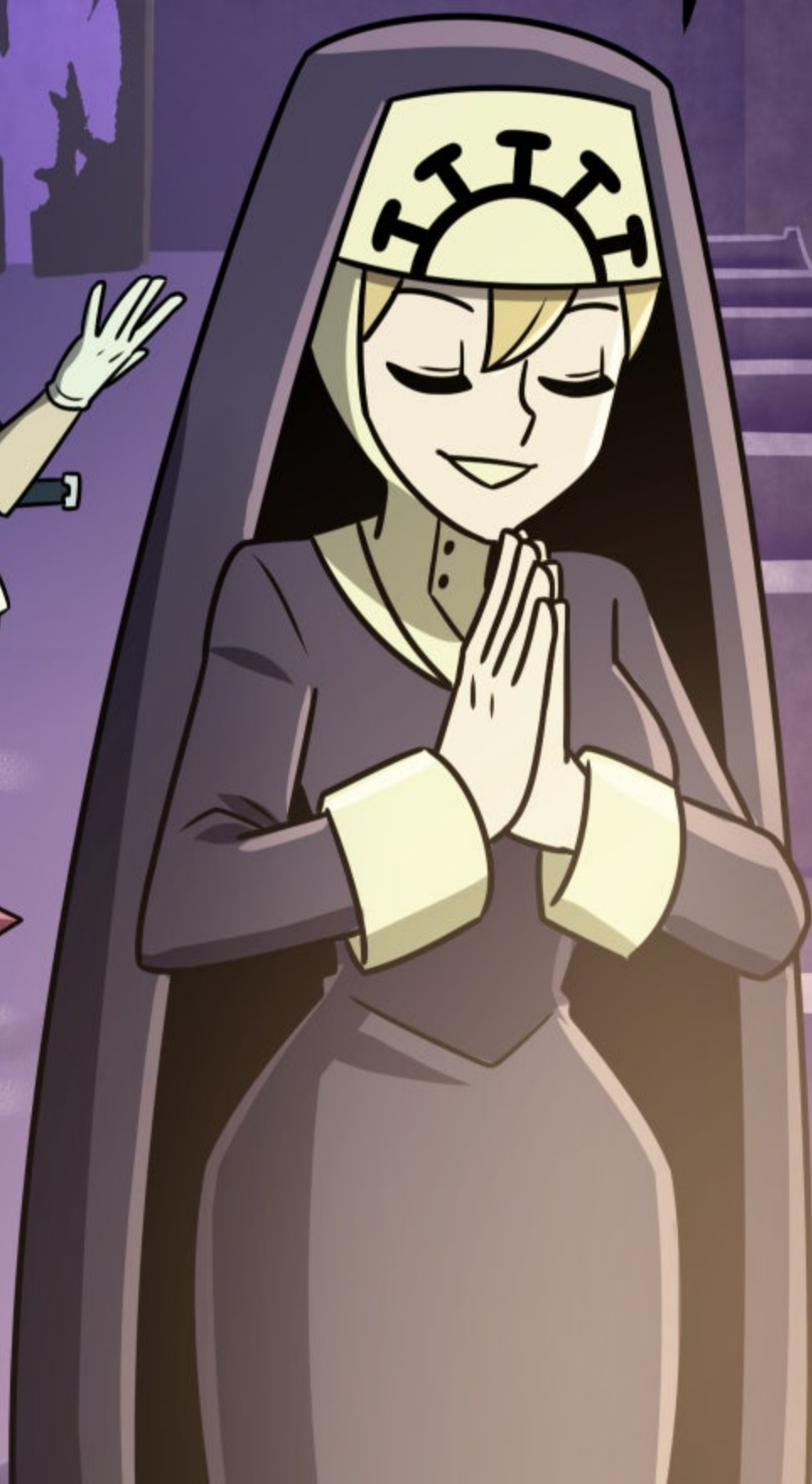
SHE'S BEEN
GONE TOO LONG!

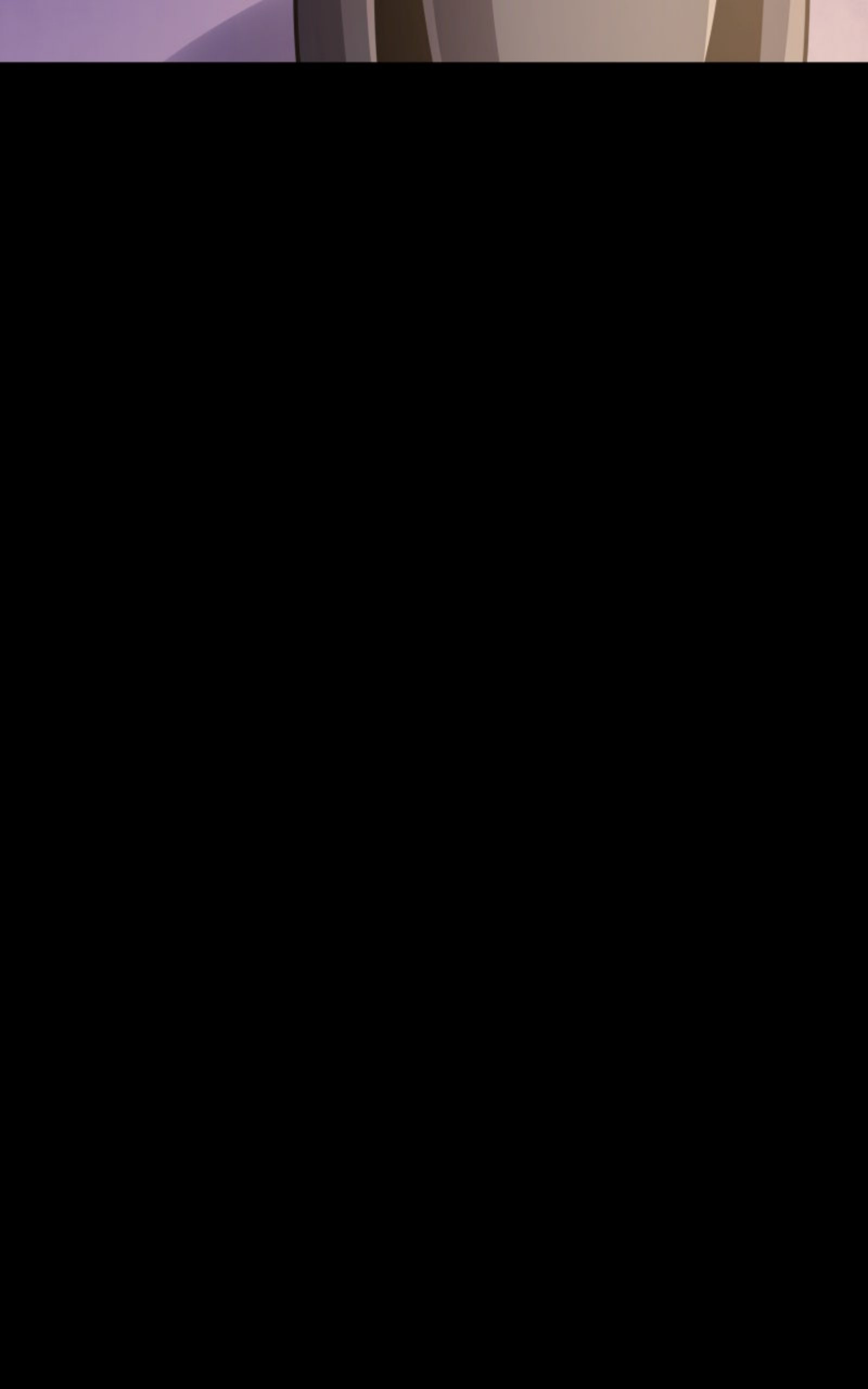


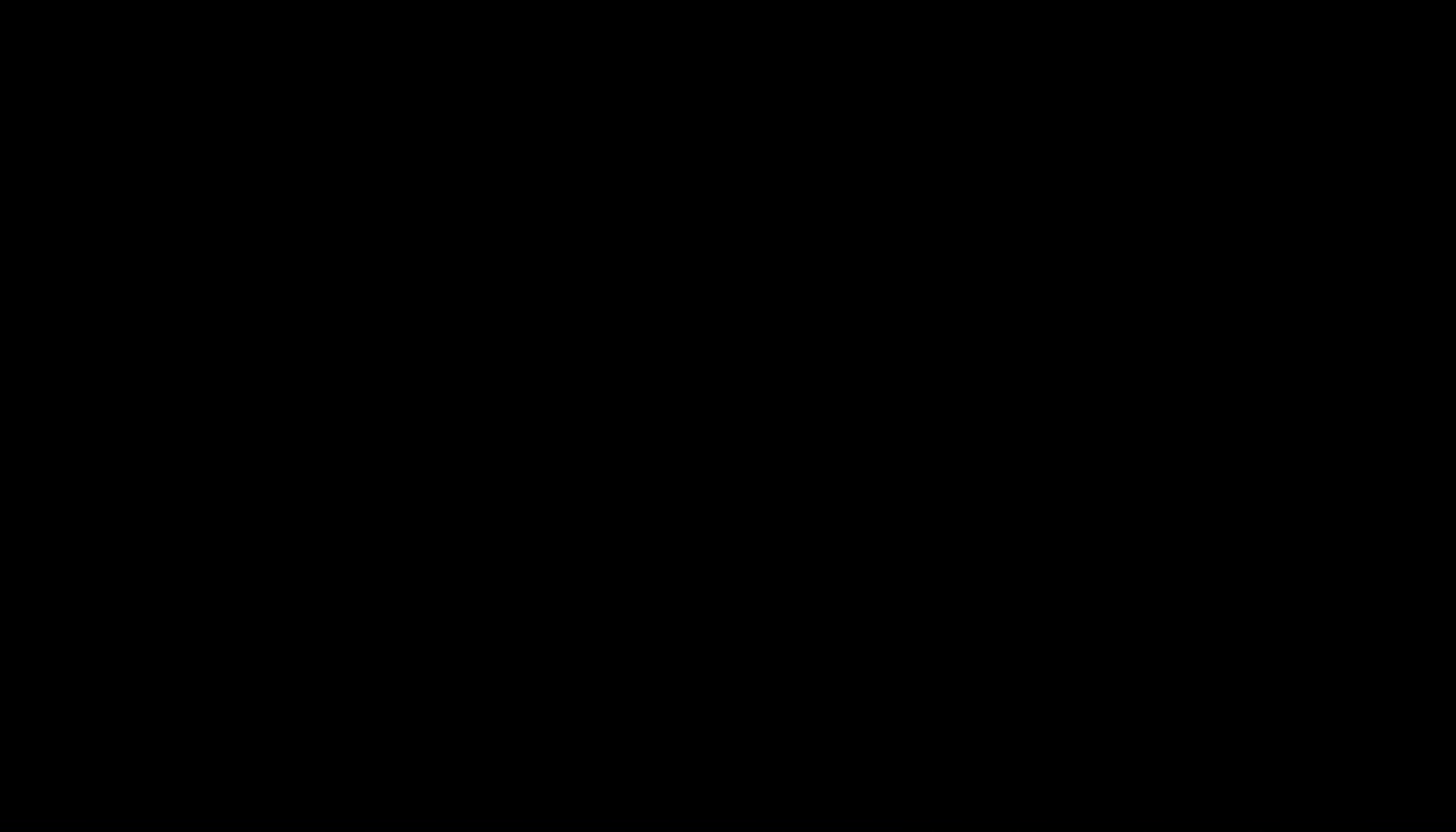
WE SHOULD
NEVER HAVE LET

HER LEAVE ON
HER OWN!

AND HOW WERE WE TO
STOP HER? SHE'S NOT SOME
HELPLESS CHILD, VALENTINE, SHE'S
THE SKULLGIRL. WE FOLLOW HER
LEAD, NOT THE OTHER WAY
AROUND.







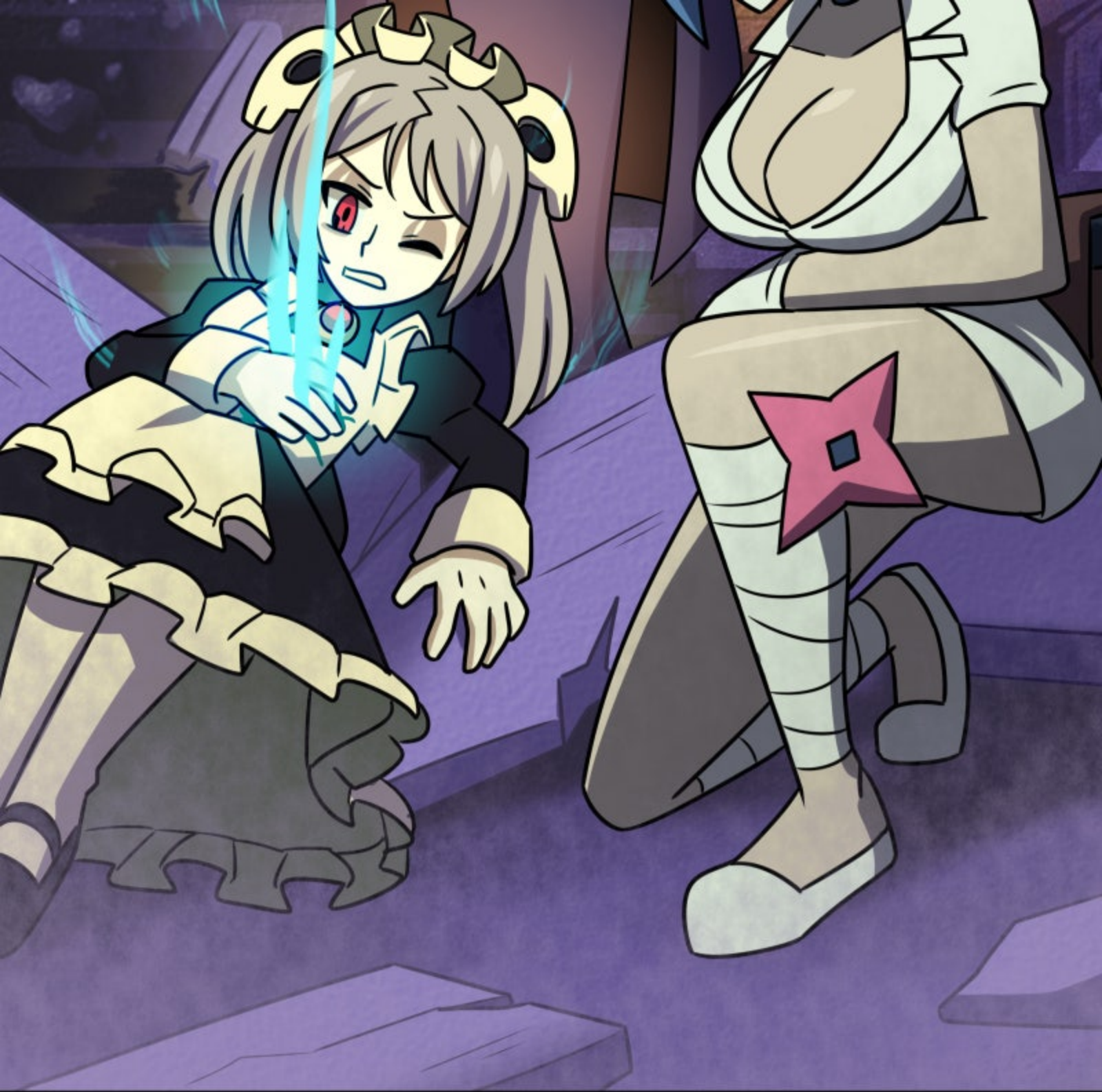




CRASH

OH MY
GODDESS! WHAT
HAPPENED?!









WHAT DO YOU
MEAN IT'S NOT NECESSARY?
SHE'S SERIOUSLY WOUNDED.
SHE MIGHT BE DYING!

HER WOUNDS ARE
ONLY LINGERING DUE TO HER
EXERTION. NOW THAT SHE
HAS TIME TO REST, THEY
WILL HEAL RAPIDLY.



HOW COULD
YOU **POSSIBLY** KNOW
THAT?



IT IS ENOUGH
THAT I **DO** KNOW. HAVE
FAITH, MY CHILD. SHE IS
THE SKULLGIRL. IT WILL
TAKE FAR MORE THAN
THIS TO END HER.



SHE'S... SHE'S RIGHT.
I'M ALREADY FEELING BETTER,
I JUST... WISH THERE WAS A
WAY TO HURT THEM BACK.

HURT THEM
LIKE THEY'VE

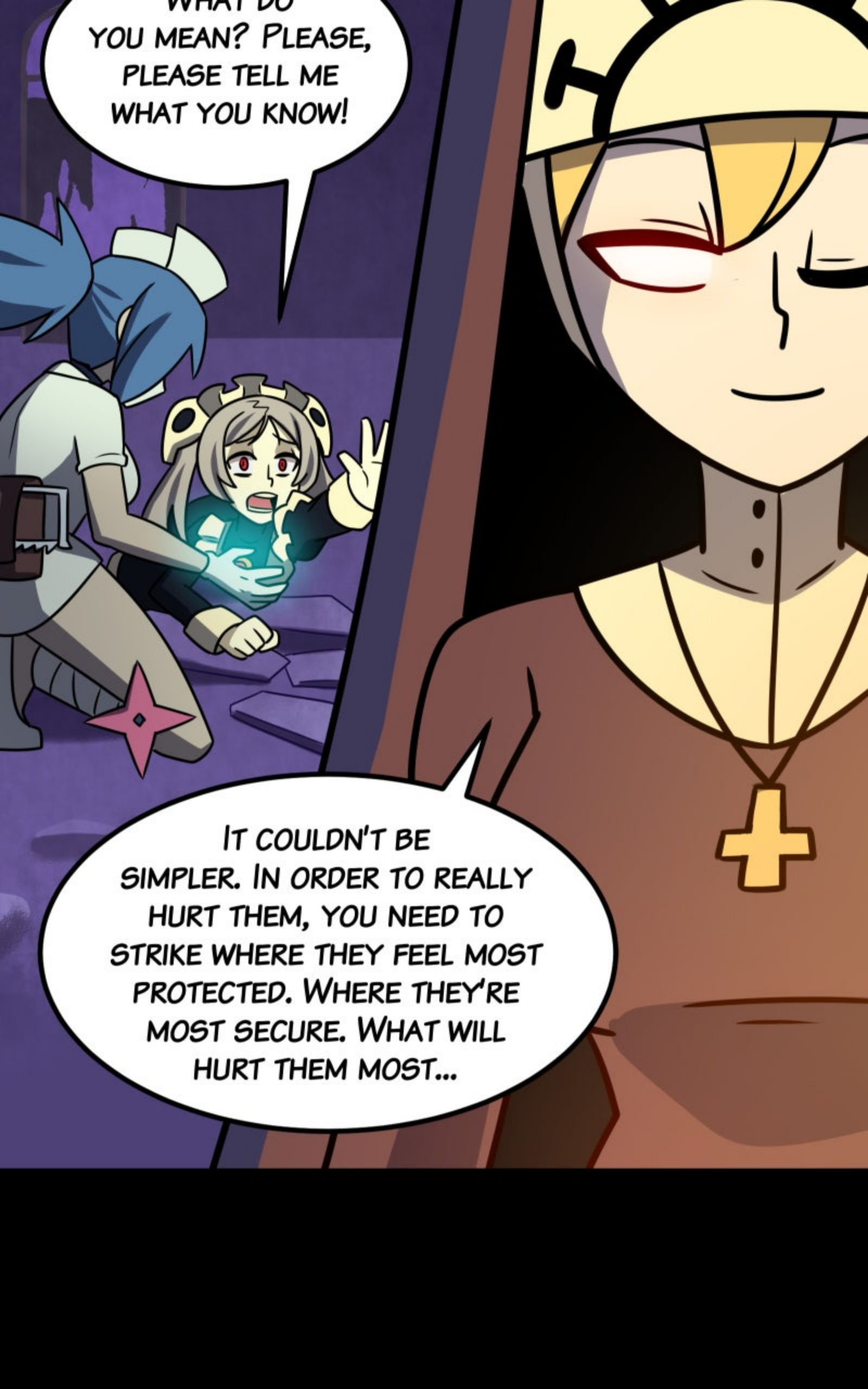
LIKE THEY'VE
HURT ME.



BUT DON'T YOU
SEE? THERE IS, MY
CHILD.







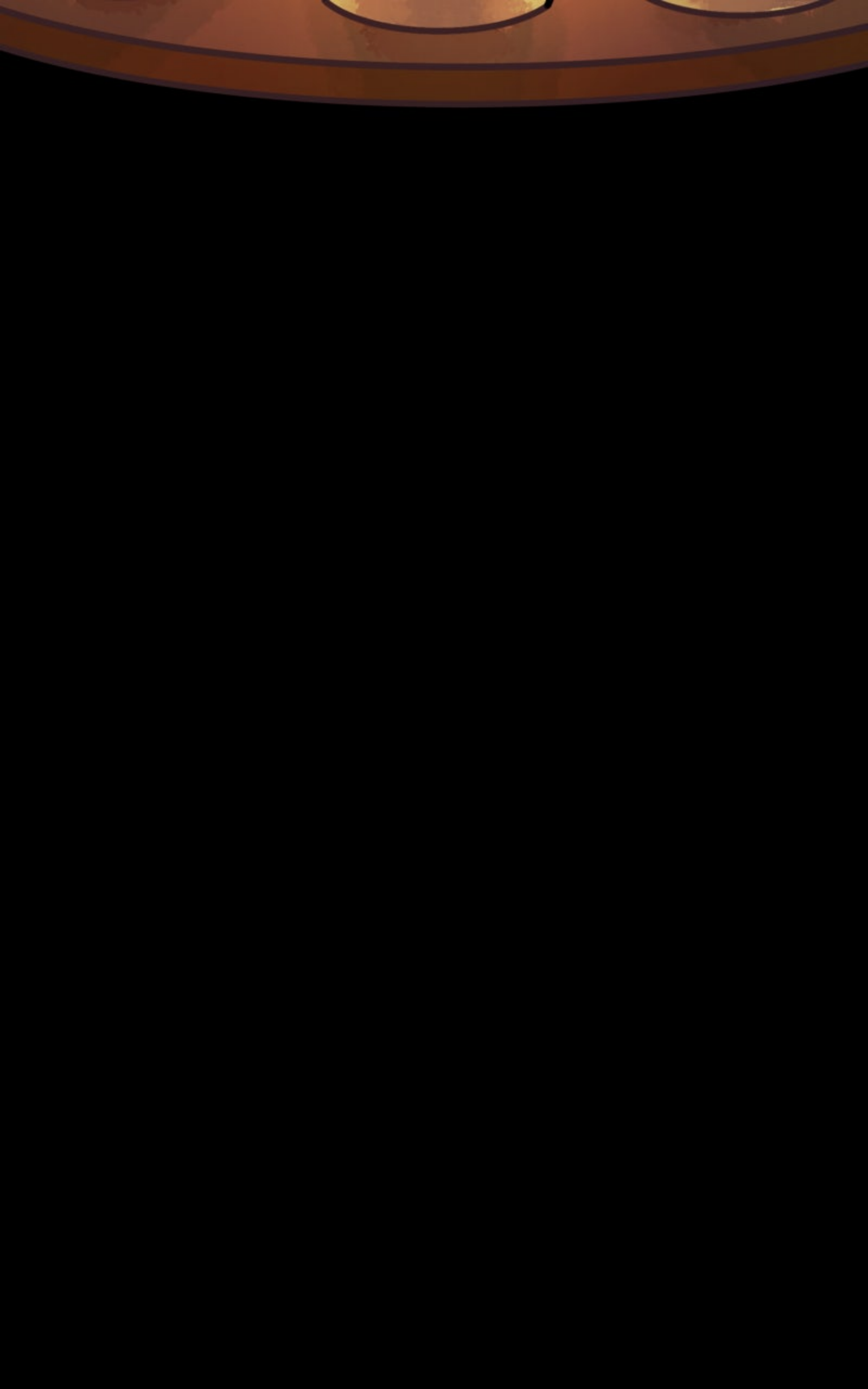
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN? PLEASE,
PLEASE TELL ME
WHAT YOU KNOW!

IT COULDN'T BE
SIMPLER. IN ORDER TO REALLY
HURT THEM, YOU NEED TO
STRIKE WHERE THEY FEEL MOST
PROTECTED. WHERE THEY'RE
MOST SECURE. WHAT WILL
HURT THEM MOST...

*IS WHEN YOU
BURN MAPLECREST TO
THE GROUND.*









✎ CREDITS ✎



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